WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1. A method, comprising:

2   determining at a storage device that a current media status has changed; and

3   transmitting an asynchronous message to a host system as a result of the

4   determination, wherein the asynchronous message can also be transmitted for a reason

5   other than a current media status change.

1   2. The method of claim 1, wherein the asynchronous message is associated with a

2   serial advanced technology attachment interface.

1   3. The method of claim 2, wherein the asynchronous message is associated with a

2   set device bits packet.

1   4. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining is performed while the

2   storage device is in a lower-power state.

1   5. The method of claim 4, wherein the reduced power state is a sleep state.

1   6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   receiving from the host system a command to adjust a power state associated with

3   the storage device.

1   7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   receiving from the host system a query for a current media status; and

3   transmitting to the host system an indication of the current media status.

1   8. The method of claim 7, wherein the current media status indicates at least one

2 of: (i) an absence of a removable storage media, and (ii) a presence of a removable

3 storage media.

1   9. The method of claim 1, wherein the storage device comprises at least one of:

2 (i) a compact disc drive, (ii) a digital versatile disk drive, (iii) a tape drive, and (iv) a

3 removable hard disk drive.

1   10. An apparatus, comprising:

2   a detection unit to determine a change in a current media status at a storage

3 device; and

4   an interface unit to transmit an asynchronous message to a host system as a result

5 of the determination, wherein the asynchronous message can also be transmitted for a

6 reason other than a current media status change.

1   11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the interface unit is a serial advanced

2 technology attachment interface.

1   12. An apparatus, comprising:

2   a storage medium having stored thereon instructions that when executed by a

3 machine result in the following:

4   determining at a storage device that a current media status has changed,

5   and

6   transmitting an asynchronous message to a host system as a result of the

7   determination, wherein the asynchronous message can also be transmitted for a

8   reason other than a current media status change.

1   13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein execution of the instructions further

2 results in:

3   receiving from the host system a query for a current media status, and

4   transmitting to the host system an indication of the current media status.

1   14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the current media status indicates at least

2 one of: (i) an absence of a removable storage media, and (ii) a presence of a removable

3 storage media.

1   15. A method, comprising:

2   receiving at a host system an asynchronous message from a storage device as a

3 result of a current media status change, wherein the asynchronous message can also be

4 received for a reason other than a current media status change; and

5   arranging for a power state associated with the storage device to be adjusted as a

6 result of the asynchronous message.

1   16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

2   transmitting to the storage device a query for a current media status; and

3   receiving from the storage device an indication of the current media status.

1   17. The method of claim 15, wherein the arranging comprises:

2   transmitting to the storage device a command to adjust the power state.

1   18. The method of claim 15, wherein the asynchronous message is associated

2 with a serial advanced technology attachment interface.

1   19. The method of claim 18, wherein the asynchronous message is associated

2 with a set device bits packet.

1   20. The method of claim 19, further comprising:

2   generating an interrupt to a storage device driver in response to the asynchronous

3 message.

1   21. An apparatus, comprising:

2   a storage medium having stored thereon instructions that when executed by a

3 machine result in the following:

4   receiving at a host system an asynchronous message from a storage device

5   as a result of a current media status change, wherein the asynchronous message

6   can also be received for a reason other than a current media status change, and

7   arranging for a power state associated with the storage device to be

8   adjusted as a result of the asynchronous message.

1   22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein execution of the instructions further

2 results in:

3   transmitting to the storage device a query for a current media status, and

4   receiving from the storage device an indication of the current media status.

1   23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the current media status indicates at least

2 one of: (i) an absence of a removable storage media, and (ii) a presence of a removable

3 storage media.

1   24. A system, comprising:

2   a host processor; and

3   a disk drive, wherein the disk drive is to transmit asynchronous message to the

4 host processor indicating that a current disk status has changed, wherein the

5 asynchronous message can also be transmitted for a reason other than a change in the

6 current disk status.

1   25. The system of claim 24, wherein a power state associated with the disk drive

2 is adjusted as a result of the asynchronous message.

1   26. A storage device driver method, comprising:

2   receiving at a storage device driver an asynchronous notification indicating that a

3 current media status associated with a storage device has changed;

4   determining a current media status in response to the received indication; and

5   arranging for the current media status to be provided to an operating system.

1   27. The method of claim 26, wherein said arranging comprises:

2   caching the current media status;

3   receiving a synchronous poll request from an operating system; and

4   responding to the synchronous poll request in accordance with the cached current

5   media status.

1   28. The method of claim 26, wherein said arranging comprises:

2   passing an asynchronous indication of the current media status to the operating

3   system.

1   29. A storage device driver apparatus, comprising:

2   a storage medium having stored thereon instructions that when executed by a

3   machine result in the following:

4   receiving at a storage device driver an asynchronous notification

5   indicating that a current media status associated with a storage device has

6   changed,

7   determining a current media status in response to the received indication,

8   and

9   arranging for the current media status to be provided to an operating

10   system.

1   30. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said arranging comprises:

2   caching the current media status,

3   receiving a synchronous poll request from an operating system, and

4   responding to the synchronous poll request in accordance with the cached

5   current media status.

1   31. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said arranging comprises:

2   passing an asynchronous indication of the current media status to the operating

3   system.

1   32. An operating system method, comprising:

2   receiving from a storage device driver an asynchronous indication of a current

3   media status associated with a storage device and removable media; and

4   performing an action in response to the asynchronous indication.

1   33. The method of claim 32, wherein the action comprises determining whether

2   information stored on the removable media should be provided to a user.

1   34. An operating system apparatus, comprising:

2   a storage medium having stored thereon instructions that when executed by a

3   machine result in the following:

4   receiving from a storage device driver an asynchronous indication of a

5   current media status associated with a storage device and removable media, and

6   performing an action in response to the asynchronous indication.

1   35. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the action comprises determining whether

2   information stored on the removable media should be provided to a user.

1   36. A method, comprising:

2   determining at a storage device that an event has occurred; and

3   transmitting an asynchronous message to a host system as a result of the

4 determination, wherein the asynchronous message can also be transmitted for a reason

5 other than an occurrence of the event.

1   37. The method of claim 36, wherein the event is associated with at least one of:

2 (i) activation of a button, and (ii) an overheating condition.